

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a media center rendering a media object comprising the steps of:

5 enabling a first mode of operation for rendering the media object;

operating the media center in accordance with parameters corresponding to the first mode of operation within a duration of time associated with the operation of the first mode;

enabling a second mode of operation for rendering the media object;

10 operating the media center in accordance with parameters corresponding to the second mode of operation within a duration of time association with the operation of the second mode, wherein one of the parameters used for rendering the media object is changed from the first mode of operation to the second mode of operation.

15 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first mode of operation is for an alarm notification and the second mode of operation is for a second alarm notification.

20 3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the parameters change an audio function of the media center.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the parameters change a video function of the media center.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein a parental lock out mode corresponds to the first mode of operation, wherein the parental lock out prevents audio and video from being viewed during the duration corresponding to the first mode of operation.

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6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein the parental lock out mode further restricts the content rendered via a media center according to selected options in a rendered menu.

10 7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first mode of operation restricts the use of a device of the media center, wherein the option to restrict the device is made by using a second device of the media center.

8. The method according to Claim 1, comprising an additional step of:

15 enabling a third mode of operation for rendering the media object;

operating the media center in accordance with parameters corresponding to the third mode of operation within a duration of time association with the operation of the third mode, wherein one of the parameters used for rendering the media object is changed from the second mode of operation to the third mode of operation.

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9. A method of enabling a media object designated as an alarm for rendering by a media center, comprising the steps of:

determining a duration of time from a pre selected time setting, wherein the time setting comprising a start time and a ending time;

5 rendering the alarm from information related to an emergency situation, wherein the rendering step is controlled by parameters that are related to the duration of time where such parameters are active when a local time is within the start time and the ending time of the duration of time.

10 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alarm is an audio based alarm.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alarm is a video based alarm.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the alarm is at least one of: a weather alarm,
15 and homeland security alarm.

13. A method of rendering alarms for a media center comprising the steps of:

specifying a type of alert to be rendered by a media center, wherein type of alert corresponds to a hierarchical level of alerts;

determining a first parameter controlling the rendering of the alert;

5 defining a first duration of time for the activation of the alert;

determining a second parameter controlling the rendering of the alert;

defining a second duration of time for the activation of the alert;

wherein the alert is rendered with the first parameter during the first duration of time, and the alert is rendered with the second parameter during the second duration of time when a local time changes from matching the first duration of time to the second duration of time; and

the alert corresponds to the level of alerts selected during the specifying step.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the alarm is at least one of: a weather alarm,
15 and homeland security alarm.